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## Aruba Trade & Industry Association Presents: Social Dialog +



**Luesette Howell**

In 2010, Aruba's government conducted a Social Dialog: "town meetings" in all the barrios which allowed the ordinary citizen to interact with the

Prime Minister and legislators to provide their input in the direction in which Aruba shall be governed; what they felt would fulfill the needs of the entire community at all levels.

Mr. Ronald van Trigt, President of the Board of ATIA, and Joyce Bartels-Daal, Executive Director, announced ATIA is continuing this social dialog with two days of seminars and workshops on Thursday and Friday, January 26th and 27th at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad. The sessions will be facilitated by two experts in this field from the International Labor Organization, (ILO,) Mrs. Luesette Howell, and Mr. Rainer Pritzer.

*Continued on page 4*

## Specific attempts are in the works to improve Public Transportation



See coverage on page 5

## Obama rejects contested Canada pipeline

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday rejected the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada, saying he could not vouch for its safety by a deadline despite intense election-year pressure.

The rival Republican Party had forced Obama to make a decision on whether to approve the 1,700-mile (2,700-kilometer) route through the Great Plains to Texas, forcing him to choose between environmentalists and industry.

The Obama administration said that company TransCanada could resubmit the Keystone XL project but that officials were not able to assess its plan by a February 21 deadline put into law by Republicans in Congress.

"This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the pro-

ject and protect the American people," Obama said in a statement.

"I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but it does not change my administration's commitment to American-made energy that creates jobs and reduces our dependence on oil," said Obama, who initially hoped to make a decision after the November election.

The oil pipeline has turned into a major issue in US politics, with environmentalists waging months of street protests against it and the oil industry funding an advertising blitz saying the project would immediately create shovel-ready jobs amid a weak economy.

Canadian Prime Minister

Stephen Harper expressed "profound disappointment" to Obama over the rejection, telling him in a telephone call that he had hoped this project "would continue given the significant contribution it would make to jobs and economic growth" in both countries.

But environmentalists have raised fears of an accident along the 1,700-mile (2,700-kilometer) proposed route, which would go through the uniquely sensitive terrain of Sand Hills in Nebraska where there is wide opposition.

The pipeline would carry crude oil from Alberta's tar sands, which emit an unusually high amount of carbon, which many scientists blame for the world's rising temperatures and chaotic weather.

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## New book on Aruba makes its way into Aruba's classrooms!



Back in 1997, Evelyn Ruiz-Croes, with the support of Charuba, published an interesting book for children with the objective of helping them to understand the history of their island. She titled the book... "Epa!...Un Strea" (Hi!...a star). Her goal was to help our new generation to learn that we did have a close relationship with Cuaraco, Bonaire and the other windward islands.

Her book has since been revised and adapted to tell the complete story of the developments between Aruba and the rest of the Antilles. The book now recounts the separation of the islands which took place on 10-10-10. In it Ruiz-Croes recounts the story of the 25 years of Apart Status up to the creation of the new Dutch Caribbean. Hence, in connection with our 25th anniversary of

Status Aparte, this revised book is set to go to school and be placed into the hands of all school children.

Replete with paintings by artist Sidney Gubsam, using the Aruba flag as the back drop, Ruiz-Croes takes a rather abstract topic and tells it in the simplest and concise fashion for children to understand. Reportedly, the new book has been received with enthusiasm by our children.

Last Tuesday, Evelyn Ruiz-Croes presented her new book to the Minister of Education during a press conference. The revised version of the book is titled... "Epa!...un strea y mas strea" (Hi!...one star and more stars).

With the support of Charuba, the new book was printed in hardcover. Special thanks and recognition was directed to Des Croes and Alice van Romondt, artist Sidney Gunsam and Sheila. Also, to UNOCA for their valuable support.

The author was especially pleased for the approval received from the Minister of Education to allow the book to "go to school!" Ruiz-Croes remarked... "It is our hope that each child will get a copy of this book in his own hands so that they can enjoy and learn from it...it is for them that I did this."



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## Spotlight is on Solar Park Project at Airport



The future Prince of the Netherlands, HRH, Willem Alexander, during his visit to Aruba last October 2011 complimented Aruba on our vision and Management of alternative energy. It is no secret that in the region, Aruba is way ahead in the use of alternative energy sources.

The Aruba electrical distribution company, ELMAR N.V. has also embarked on a special Project, which has been offered as a Public Tender, the "Solar Park at Aruba Airport Authority." This project is to be established at the Airport and consists of a design, construction, financing, operation and management of a solar park in the parking area under contract with ELMAR N.V.

ELMAR N.V. has chosen the existing parking area of the Aruba Airport Authority as the first solar park to be constructed by ELMAR N.V. Our electric distribution company intends to generate a maximum of 4 mega watts of power to supply her 12kv network. In this fashion ELMAR wants to supply a growing demand with the generation of clean energy connecting one or more solar panels to her network.

On the 6th of December 2011 in a Pre-Bid Meeting, ELMAR provided detailed in-



formation regarding the project. They also detailed the procedures of the Public Tender, the Request for Proposal, and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) concept.

Some 32 companies showed serious interest in the project and purchased the RPF document. The companies in question were both local and international. There were companies from Curacao, Holland, the United States, Germany, Denmark and Canada. Panama, England, South Africa, Puerto Rico and Spain also demonstrated enormous interest in the project. The Pre-Bid meeting was followed online and via ELMAR's website, as well as on SKYPE.

The process of Question and

Answers for each interested company has taken place. Next on the agenda is the "Submission of Date Proposals" which is scheduled for March 6th. On the 13th of March they will inform those who will participate in the Public Tender that their proposals have been accepted. On this date they will reveal which is the best and second best proposals submitted based on the extremely high criteria set within the context of the Request For Proposal.

ELMAR expects to sign a contract with the winner of the Public Tender on April 3rd, 2012. That will usher Aruba into its very first Solar Park project and a major step closer to independence from fossil energy!





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## Betico Day is the day to go to Town!



ORANJESTAD -- "Dia di Betico" is January 25th! Everyone is encouraged to spend this day or part of it anyway, in Oranjestad. The Museums, Galleries and other institutions will be open as of 10 o' clock in the morning until 2 o' clock in the afternoon. It is a day that we can

enjoy the history, culture and expressions of art which is in such abundance on Aruba.

The two Museums in Playa (the city) and the Rancho Foundation have united together to attract the public to Playa in order to see the history and culture of Aruba from close-up. This year many more

Galleries and institutions have banded together to offer the opportunity for everyone to discover and appreciate the art, history and the heritage of our island.

The Rancho Foundation has planned a soft opening for their exposition located in the Weststraat. Their exposition will be dedicated to the memory of the deceased Mr. Sint Jago. A miniature boat will be on display at the back patio especially in memory of Sint Jago.

Santa Rosa and Aruba will prepare a beautiful garden decorated by Santa Rosa especially for Betico Day. The Rancho Foundation will offer 'dushi' local treats for the sweet tooth along with cold drinks.

The National Archeological Museum will again have an



"Open House" of their entire complex. In 2008 they had such an Open House which was fantastic and they have received many requests for a repeat. This time, however, they will open the entire complex to

the public; they will allow access to exposition halls, all offices, the storage area of archeological material, and the laboratory.

*Continued on page 5*



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## Aruba Trade & Industry Association Presents: Social Dialog +

Continued from page 1

Mrs. Howell is the holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences, Psychology and Sociology and a Master of Science degree in Administration and Organizational Behavior. She has lived and worked internationally for over 30 years, with 17 years in Africa, 8 in Europe, and over 6 years in the Caribbean. Her career has encompassed the areas of education, training and management positions, and is currently an international civil servant specializing in the development of technical cooperation programs.

Since 1994, Mrs. Howell began serving with the International Labor Organization (ILO) at its Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland where she designed and implemented technical cooperation programs totaling over US\$3M for employers' organizations in Africa and in the Caribbean. Major projects included Enterprise-based Productivity Improvement, and Promoting Gender Equality through Employers' Organizations. She served as

technical focal point on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Development, Gender Issues, HIV/AIDS, Occupational Safety and Health and contributed to the first ILO Inter-departmental Project on the Informal Economy. She also served as the Employers' Bureau representative on the Board of the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, Italy.

In 2001, she transferred to the ILO Office for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, as Senior Specialist for Employers' Activities. A major accomplishment has been the successful launch in June 2007 of the first Caribbean Academy for the Management of Employers' Organizations (CAMEO), a capacity-building program for Caribbean Employers Executives.

Mr. Rainer Francois Pritzer assumed duties as Senior Specialist in Social Dialogue and Labor Administration of the ILO Office for the Caribbean in January 2009. A national of Germany, Mr. Pritzer holds a Master's Degree in Law from



**Rainer Francois Pritzer**

the University of Bonn, Germany and a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration from the University of Speyer, Germany. He served for three years in the German justice system, working in a law firm, Magistrate's Court, Court of Appeal and Public Prosecutor's Office, before qualifying to become a judge.

He joined the ILO in 1995 and worked with the Management (DGA/DEV) and the Technical Cooperation (PROPARTEC) Departments in ILO, Geneva, before moving to the ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. From 2001 onwards, he worked on social dialogue and labor administration issues, initially in Geneva. From 2005 to 2008 he served as the Senior Specialist for Social Dialogue and Labor Administration at the ILO Sub-regional Office in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), covering 14 countries in East

Africa and the Indian Ocean. His principal duties included providing technical advice in the relevant policy fields to governments and social partners, holding training courses, backstopping technical cooperation projects, undertaking research and supervising publications on social dialogue.

Prime Minister Mike Eman and Mr. van Trigt will open the seminars at 9:00 AM on January 26. The morning session will examine Social Dialog in a Global Context: ILO Perspective on Social Dialog and the Decent Work Agenda; examples of social dialogs conducted in the Caribbean will be provided.

The afternoon session will be dedicated to an examination of the social dialog conducted on Aruba and its potential. A panel discussion will provide

the perspective of government, employers and trade unions, with a 15 minute presentation by a representative from each sector. Thursday's seminar will finish at 4:30 PM.

Friday's sessions will be from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. They will begin with a presentation of "How to Prepare for an Effective Social Dialog," followed by group discussions and a Q & A on the subject. The day will finish with summaries, with steps to take to move forward including agendas, prioritizing and preparing.

Those interested in attending should contact the ATIA offices in Dakota to reserve a place. Call 582-7593 or contact them through their website: <http://www.atiaaruba.org/>

by Rosalie Klein

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## Specific attempts are in the works to improve Public Transportation

ORANJESTAD - Upon the request of the government, Deloitte & Touche has begun an inspection campaign regarding our Public Transportation services.

This inspection entails that Deloitte will monitor the service being rendered to the public. They will also approach the public, both local residents who use the service as well as our visitors, with certain questions concerning their experiences with our public transportation services.

The answers to these questions will enable them to identify and analyse problem areas. The results of this research can later be used to improve the quality and the service of our public transportation. We should be aware that we may be approached by an interviewer with questions regarding the services of ARUBUS N.V. There will also be forms available at different locations that the public can use to fill in these questions. Deloitte is counting on everyone in our community to respond positively to this important action.

Anyone who is a user of our public transport, or who is employed in the public transportation business and who wishes to cooperate with this action, can fill out one of the forms and send to Deloitte & Touche. You can send them an email at: [opv@deloitte.com](mailto:opv@deloitte.com), tell your personal experience as a user of the bus, autobus, taxi, or rental car. Your information will be used to help us improve the service and guarantee the best possible quality of our Public Transportation system.

## Betico Day is the day to go to Town!

Continued from page 3

This will give everyone a complete view of exactly how the building is being used.

The Aruba Historical Museum will present a fantastic atmosphere in the flare of a mini Bon Bini Festival with music, folklore show, stands selling souvenirs and local delicacies. What's more, everyone will have an opportunity to climb the historic Fort Zoutman Tower to get a picturesque view of Oranjes-

tad. The kitchen and bar will also have food and drinks on sale for those interested in purchasing great local food.

Ateliers '89 will present a new exposition on Betico Day of works of art recently completed here on Aruba. This will be replete with works from Rem van den Bosch and Nicole Bianchet... paintings by Nicole and expert photography by Rem. In the video room they will show the ultimate moda

show: MODA. In the large hall they will put on display the multi disciplinary exposition of: Me Myself and I.

All of the above will be graced by the sweet tunes of Angel Wernet's Caha di Orgel (tingilingi box- music box), Betto Faro's coconut water stand, Melissa Richardson's artworks and a whole lot more. Ateliers '89 will be another place to visit on Betico Day!

UNOCA in the Stadion-

weg is also expected to open their exposition halls for this day of celebration. They will display their collections and those of STICUSA. Everyone is welcome to come in and purchase books. They will host other activities, such as reading, storytelling, children's games and much more.

The art Studio and Art Gallery, STUDIO O, next door to UNOCA of contemporary artist Osaira Muyale,

will also swing open her doors on Betico Day to offer everyone the opportunity to visit her studio, café and inspirational gallery.

Betico Day is definitely the day that everyone will want to take advantage of the opportunity to visit these extremely interesting and educational venues. Let's all get out there and enjoy the festivities together with family and friends and be inspired!



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Seven charged in US insider trading probe

NEW YORK (AFP) - US authorities announced yesterday the break-up of an alleged \$78 million hedge fund insider trading scheme and said they'd charged seven people across the country.

Speaking in Manhattan, the chief federal New York prosecutor, US Attorney Preet Bharara, called the ring "a club where everyone scratched everyone else's back."

Four people were arrested and charged and three more have already entered guilty pleas and are cooperating with investigators, according to a criminal complaint.

Financial employees as far afield as New York, Boston, Connecticut and California were targeted in the sweep.

The seven -- financial analysts and money managers -- were charged with securities fraud and conspiracy. In addition to criminal charges, they, and two of the hedge fund companies, also face charges from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The seven allegedly made almost \$62 million dollars in profits on trades made after illegally sharing non-public information about Dell computer giant in 2008-2009. Illicit trades in Nvidia, another computer company, allegedly netted more than \$15.7 million.

The case described in the complaint is built on email and

phone records and aid to prosecutors from the three who pleaded guilty in hopes of receiving a lighter sentence.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is in the midst of tackling what Bharara calls "rampant" insider trading on Wall Street. More than 50 people so far have been prosecuted.

The highest profile target to date is Raj Rajaratnam, the billionaire founder of Galleon hedge fund, who was sentenced to a record 11 years in prison in 2011.

His friend Rajat Gupta, a former director of Goldman Sachs and head of McKinsey & Co, faces trial this year on insider trading charges.

In yesterday's arrests, Anthony Chiasson, who surrendered in New York, was the

co-founder of Level Global hedge fund. Todd Newman, arrested in Boston, was a former trader with the Diamondback Capital Management hedge fund.

Jon Horvath, arrested in New York, was a technology stocks analyst, while Danny Kuo, a fund manager, was arrested in Pasadena, California.

A crucial link in the alleged scheme was Sandeep Goyal, who had previously worked for Dell, before going on to a global asset management firm in New York. There, he allegedly continued to receive insider information from a so-far unnamed source within Dell, the complaint said.

According to the SEC, Level Global made about \$72.6 million in the trades, while Diamondback made \$3.9 million.

### Two dismembered bodies dumped outside Mexico school

MONTERREY (AFP) - Mexican police found two dismembered, beheaded male bodies dumped outside a high school in the northern city of Monterrey yesterday, a day after three dismembered bodies were found in Acapulco.

The torsos were dumped wrapped in blankets in front of the school in a working-class district of the Monterrey, said an official from the Nuevo

Leon state investigations agency, declining to be named.

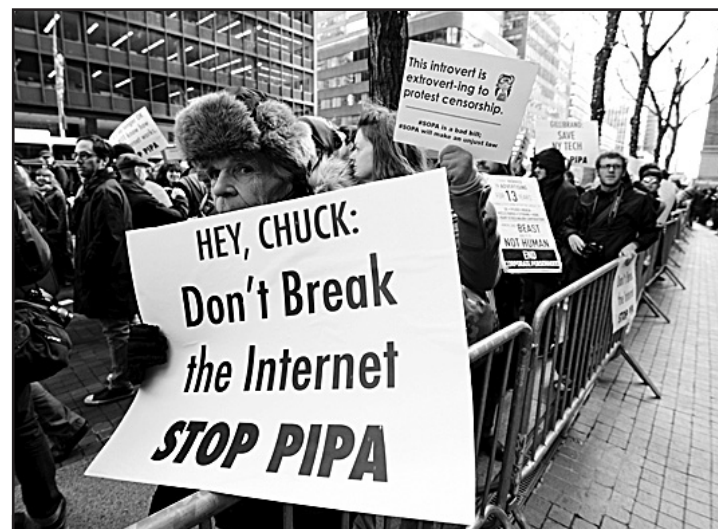
A message left on the school wall criticized the Zetas drug gang, the official said.

Authorities blame turf wars between the Gulf drug gang and its former hitmen the Zetas for a rise in violence in the industrial hub of Nuevo Leon, near the US border, in recent years.

Three dismembered bodies were meanwhile found Tuesday in different parts of the Pacific resort city of Acapulco, which has seen a hike in gangland-style killings in recent years.

Around 50,000 people have died in suspected drug violence since President Felipe Calderon began a military crackdown on organized crime in December 2006, according to media counts and official figures.

### Websites strike back against online piracy bills



AFP photo shows people gathered yesterday at a protest by the technology organization New York Tech Meetup against proposed laws to curb Internet piracy outside the offices of US Democratic Senators from New York Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand on Third Avenue in New York. Schumer and Gillibrand are co-sponsors of the Senate bill PIPA (Protect Intellectual Property Act). SOPA (Stop Online Piracy Act) is the US House version. Wikipedia and Google joined hundreds of other websites yesterday in a sprawling online protest against legislation in the US Congress intended to crack down on Internet piracy.

### EU mulls blacklisting 'violent' Israeli settlers

JERUSALEM (AFP) - The EU has urged its member states to share information on "violent" settlers in east Jerusalem who could be barred from EU countries, according to an internal report seen yesterday by AFP.

The European Union's "Jerusalem Report 2011" calls on member states to "share information on violent settlers in east Jerusalem to assess whether to grant entry into EU member states."

Authored by EU heads of mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah, the report accuses Israel of "systematically undermining the Palestinian presence in the city through the continued expansion of settlements."

And it points to the work of private settler groups working

to take over property in and around Jerusalem's Old City.

The report, which is circulated among the EU's 27 members, says that settlement in east Jerusalem "accelerated" in 2011, a year which also saw an uptick in attacks allegedly carried out by extremist settlers on Palestinians and their property.

Palestinians have also reported increased attacks on olive groves, with the attackers setting fire to and uprooting trees.

The EU has asked its members to share information on violent settlers in the past, though it is not known to have actively implemented a policy of blacklisting such individuals.




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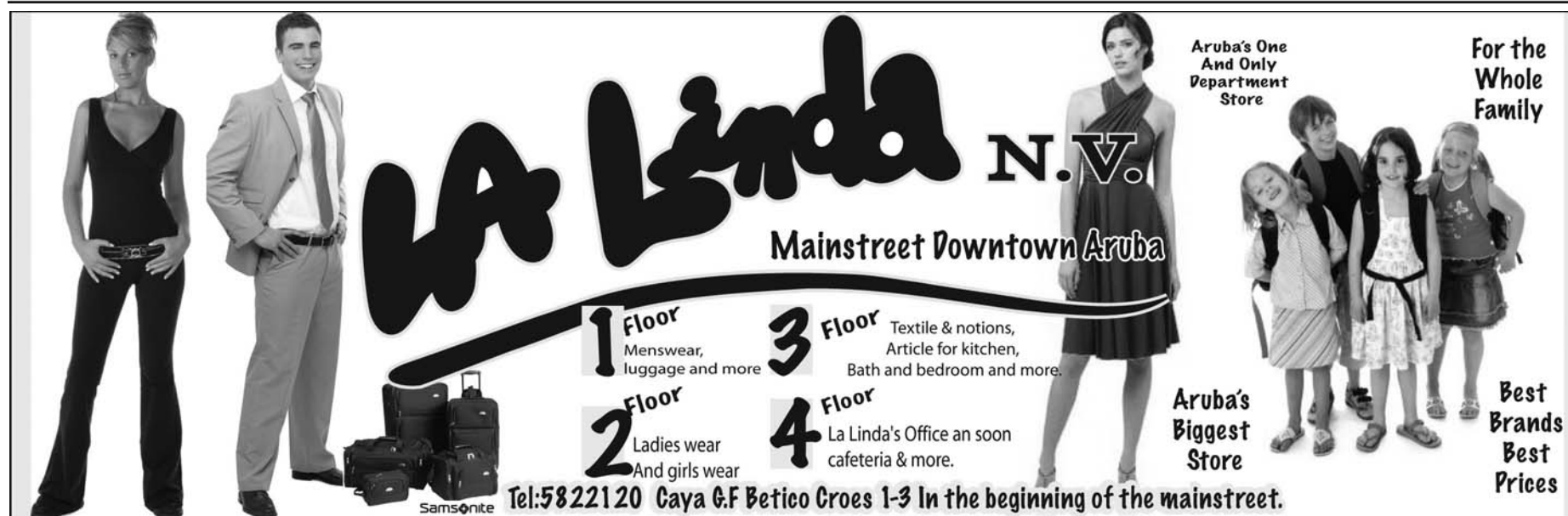
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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Blast hits oil pipeline in Colombia

BOGOTA (AFP) - Unknown attackers blew up a section of an oil pipeline in northeast Colombia near the Venezuelan border, the company Petronorte said yesterday.

"We cannot say who did this but we know it was an attack, an explosion" at the Rio Zulua-Ayacucho pipeline, Petronorte spokesman Renzo Coronado told RCN Radio.

The spokesman did not indicate how much oil was

spilled but said efforts were underway to control the damage and prevent contamination of the Catatumbo river.

The area has seen several attacks in recent days by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a Marxist group fighting the government for decades.

The government contends the rebels in the region are involved in the smuggling of drugs and fuel and other crimes.

### US rejects Cuba prisoner swap

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States yesterday rejected the idea of freeing Cuban nationals in return for contractor Alan Gross, saying that the jailed American held by Havana was not a spy.

A Cuban diplomat, in a letter released Tuesday, said that Cuba was ready to find a "humanitarian solution" on Gross in return for a "reciprocal" gesture of releasing five Cubans imprisoned on charges of spying in the United States.

"An exchange for any of the members of the Cuban five is not possible," State Department spokesman William

Ostick told AFP.

"Their cases aren't comparable and the Cuban five were convicted in federal court and are serving their sentences," he said. "Alan Gross is not a spy."

"We continue to call on the Cuban government to release Alan Gross," he said.

Gross was found guilty in March of "acts against the independence or territorial integrity" of Cuba and sentenced to 15 years in prison for delivering laptops and communications equipment to Cuba's small Jewish community under a State Department contract.

## Italy cruise wreck rescue halted, captain under house arrest

GIGLIO ISLAND (AFP) - The judge investigating Italy's Costa Concordia disaster said yesterday the captain had shirked his responsibilities, as divers halted the search for survivors on the increasingly unstable wreck.

Judge Valeria Montesarchio released captain Francesco Schettino from police custody into house arrest despite noting he had made no "serious attempt" to rejoin the stricken vessel to take charge of evacuating the remaining passengers.

Rescuers were forced to suspend their search yesterday as the vessel shifted. Emergency workers fear that the ship could slip from its resting place on a rocky shelf and slide into 100 meter (330 feet) deep waters.

"Instruments indicated the ship had moved, we are in the process of evaluating if it has found a new resting point to allow us to resume. For the moment we cannot even go near it," emergency services spokesman Luca Cari said.

A German woman listed among the missing is alive after returning home in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, an Italian official said yesterday.

Divers, mountain rescue teams and marines have recovered 11 bodies from the turbid waters of the half-submerged hulk in the days since Friday.

Another 20 passengers and crewmen are unaccounted for, their relatives huddled in hotels in the area anxiously waiting for news of their loved ones.

"We will not stop as long as we are certain that no-one is remaining aboard the ship," coastguard spokesman Filippo Marini told AFP.

In his first comments on the disaster, Italian Prime Minister



Underwater photo taken released by the Italian Coast Guard on January 16, 2012 shows the inside of the Costa Concordia, after it ran aground. (AFP)

Mario Monti said during a visit to London: "Any such disaster could and should be avoided."

He added that the Italian government was trying to limit any damage to the environment from the ship, lying on its side off the Tuscan island of Giglio.

The 114,500 ton, 17-deck behemoth was insured for 395 million euros (\$507 million), industry sources said.

An insurance industry source who did not want to be named said it is already possible to speak of the Costa Concordia as "the biggest maritime disaster ever for the transport of passengers or goods."

Schettino -- described by one Italian newspaper as "the most hated man in Italy" -- faces years in prison on charges of multiple manslaughter and abandoning ship.

The fact that other crew and officers stayed on board to try to evacuate the passengers refuted the captain's claim that he could not oversee the operation from the vessel, Italian media quoted the judge as saying after she questioned him at length on Tuesday.

She said Schettino had made no "serious attempt" to get back on board his ship, "or even close to it", after leaving during the evacuation.

She also noted that once he had left the ship, he remained for hours on the rocks with crew members watching the rescue operation.

Explaining her ruling, she said she did not think Schettino posed a flight risk but she did believe he could try to conceal evidence, which is why he needed to be under house arrest.

Schettino arrived at his home in Meta di Sorrento near the southern city of Naples around 2:00 am accompanied by police officers.

Inhabitants of the village closed ranks around the sea captain. They lashed out at photographers and cameramen gathered outside Schettino's home, accusing them of "media lynching" of the captain who "saved thousands of lives."

Under Italian law he will not be allowed to leave his home or communicate with anyone apart from his lawyer and very close family.



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## Health & Living

# World experts urge UN to take up mental health



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Mental illness and drug abuse can wreak havoc in global societies and economies, and the UN General Assembly should de-

vote a special session to the matter, global health experts said on Tuesday.

Every country in the world is affected by the burden of

mental, neurological and substance use (MNS) disorders, but often sufferers face discrimination and human rights abuse, said the article in PLoS Medicine.

"The time has come for recognition at the highest levels of global development, namely the UN General Assembly, of the urgent need for a global strategy to address the global burden of MNS disorders," said the article.

Lead authors were Vikram Patel from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Judith Bass from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in the United States.

Investment is needed in three key areas, they argued: expanding knowledge about mental health disorders, better access to evidence-based programs of care and treatment, and protection of human rights.

A list of key needs to be addressed and steps to take could

be enshrined in a "People's Charter for Mental Health" accounting for input from policy makers, families, researchers and other advocates.

The article said neuropsychiatric disorders will account for the loss of some \$16.1 trillion US dollars globally over the next two decades, with "dramatic impacts on productivity and quality of life," particularly as the population ages.

About 25 million people have dementia worldwide, a number set to skyrocket to 80 million by 2040, with close to three quarters of dementia patients concentrated in low and middle income countries.

Meanwhile, suicide claims at least one million lives per year and nearly four percent of all deaths around the world are attributable to alcohol.

Mental illness can also boost risky behaviors that result in disease.

"Depressive disorders

markedly increase the risk for noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, coronary artery disease, stroke, and dementia," said the article.

"Conflict, displacement, poverty, gender-based violence, and other social determinants of ill health increase the risk for MNS disorders," it added.

"MNS disorders are, in turn, associated with worsening of social and economic circumstances, setting up a vicious cycle of poverty and illness."

A majority of world governments would have to agree that the issue is important enough that it deserves a special session at the UN General Assembly.

"The fact that MNS disorders affect people in all countries should offer considerable incentive for investments by both public and private sectors in this initiative," the authors wrote.

## Study boosts use of Pill to ease period pain

PARIS (AFP) - An exceptionally long-running investigation has backed use of the Pill to ease menstruation pain, according to a study published Wednesday.

The findings come from health research spanning 30 years, gathering more than 1,400 Swedish women born in 1962, 1972 and 1982.

They filled out a lengthy questionnaire when they were enrolled in the probe at the age of 19, and did the same again five years later at the age of 24.

Those who took oral contraceptives reported significant drops in two acknowledged measurements of pain.

Age was also a factor. As a woman aged, the severity of period pain decreased somewhat, but this effect was independent from the Pill, and smaller.

The investigation, led by gynaecologist Ingela Lindh at Gothenburg University's Institute of Clinical Sciences, is published online by the European journal Human Reproduction.

The Pill is sometimes pre-

scribed by doctors to reduce period pain, and many women attest to its effectiveness, but the scientific verdict has so far been mixed.

Two big reviews of the evidence, carried out in 2007 and 2009, said there had been a lack of randomised controlled trials to provide a clear answer.

Randomised control trials are the gold standard of clinical research.

They entail enrolling volunteers who are randomly assigned either to a group that uses the genuine treatment or to a comparison group which uses dummy pills as a comparison.

The new paper could help provide a definitive answer, its authors hope.

The probe is unusually long and uses each volunteer as a personal benchmark to measure the impact of the Pill and ageing on period symptoms.

Menstrual pain, known as dysmenorrhoea, has been estimated to account for 600 million lost working hours and two billion dollars in lost productivity annually in the United States alone.



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## UAE to host global water conference next year

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Abu Dhabi will host an international summit on water next year, Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, the head of a project to build a zero-carbon city on the outskirts of the UAE capital, said Wednesday.

"It gives me a great pleasure

to announce (the) launch of the International Water Summit 2013 that will take place in Abu Dhabi next January," Jaber told reporters at the World Future Energy Summit in the Emirati capital.

"As countries... seek to prosper to raise their standard of living and provide their communities with health and security, we are all facing serious challenges," he said.

The Middle East and North Africa are home to 6.3 percent of the world's population but have just 1.4 percent of the globe's renewable fresh water, Jaber told the conference.

"We have to launch studies in order to find new solutions to satisfy the needs of our future generations," said the UAE's environment and water minister, Rashed Ahmad bin Fahd.

The Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) warned in

2009 that water resources in the capital may face depletion in 50 years unless prompt action is taken.

The emirate, which sits on some 95 percent of the country's oil, aims to be a centre for renewable energy, through projects such as Masdar City, which is to be powered solely by renewables.

Masdar, a government initiative established in 2006 to advance renewable energy and sustainable technologies, is building the zero-carbon city as an example of future eco-friendly cities.

But the development has slowed down, pushing its completion date from 2016 to between 2020 and 2025.

The estimated cost of the city has also dropped from \$22 billion to no more than \$19.8 billion.

## Sci-Tech

### Three injured as Japan whalers use hooks: activists



file photo of Japanese Whaling

SYDNEY (AFP) - Three anti-whaling demonstrators have been injured after Japanese crew members used grappling hooks and bamboo poles against them in a high seas clash, activist group Sea Shepherd said Wednesday.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which annually shadows and harasses the Japanese whaling fleet, claimed two activists were struck in the shoulder with iron hooks and one was hit twice in the face with a long bamboo pole.

The Yushin Maru No. 2 (YS2) is tailing the Steve Irwin anti-whaling ship in the Southern Ocean and the incident happened about 300 nautical miles north of Mawson Peninsula in Antarctica, according to Sea Shepherd.

"Our small boats were attempting to slow down the Japanese harpoon vessel Yushin Maru No. 2, which is aggressively tailing the Steve Irwin," Captain Paul Watson said on the Sea Shepherd website.

During the incident, he said American Brian Race was jabbed twice in the face with a bamboo pole, receiving lacerations above his right eye and on his nose.

South African Russell Bergh, a cameraman for cable television channel Animal Planet, was struck in the right arm and shoulder with an iron grappling hook, resulting in deep bruising.

Watson said French photographer Guillaume Collet was also hit in the right arm and shoulder by a grappling hook and injured.

Japan's Fisheries Agency disputed the account, accusing the activists of starting the conflict by using ropes to try to disable the ship's rudder and propeller and hurling at least 30 bottles containing paint.

The Agency called Sea Shepherd's actions "extremely dangerous acts which threaten the safety of our country's vessel and the life of its crew."

Three whaling ships, led by the 720-tonne Yushin Maru No. 2, were seen leaving the Japanese port of Shimonoseki on December 6 for the annual hunt, with security measures beefed up after clashes in previous years.

Their mission is officially said to be for "scientific research", with the fleet aiming to catch around 900 minke and fin whales, according to a plan submitted by the government to the International Whaling Commission.

Watson said two of the three Japanese harpoon vessels in the area were tailing Sea Shepherd boats as they closed in on their hunting grounds, effectively preventing them from killing whales.

"We are almost at the limit of the eastern boundary of their self-assigned hunting area," Watson said. "We should be getting close."

A second Sea Shepherd vessel, the Bob Barker, is in the area but a third, Brigitte Bardot, was damaged in high seas and forced to return to Australia earlier this month.

The Brigitte Bardot was escorted back to port by the Steve Irwin, with the Shonan Maru No. 2 in close pursuit.

Three activists from the environmental group Forest Rescue Australia boarded the Shonan Maru as it followed the Steve Irwin back out of port off Australia's west coast on January 7, sparking a diplomatic incident.

Japan only agreed to hand the men over after intervention from Canberra, and they were returned to Australia on Monday by a border protection vessel.

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## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## WHO'S IN CHARGE?

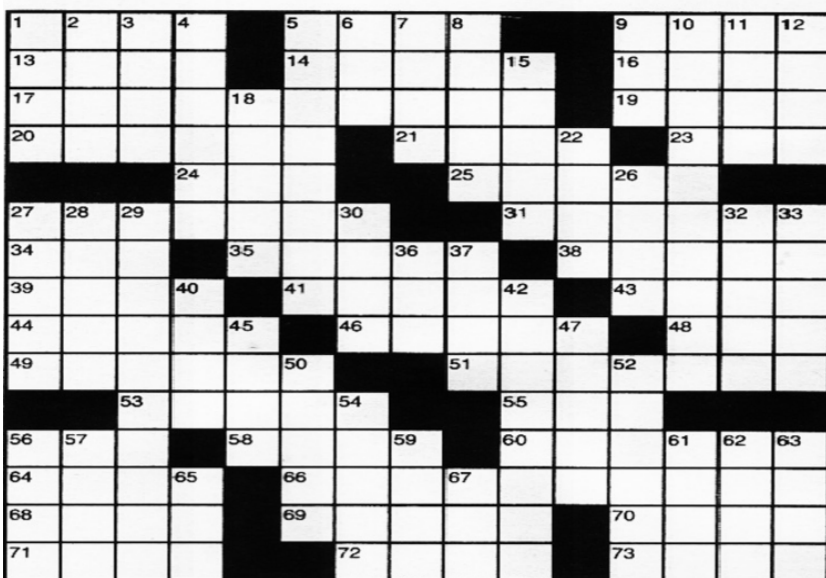
## ACROSS

1. Water-cracker manufacturer
5. "Elder" orator
9. Richard Pryor's hairstyle, once
13. Hautboy
14. Mortgages
16. Set decorator's item
17. "Manhattan" director
19. Pro —
20. Gloomy
21. Mabus of "Ugly Betty"
23. Lindros's gp.
24. Practice
25. Sight in an urban landscape
27. Makes blue
31. Sissy who played Carrie
34. Fell

35. Hound's trail
38. Blank look
39. Wild festivity
41. Heston classic
43. Zippy
44. Whitewalls
46. — acid (anemic's need)
48. Baseball's Preacher
49. Nets
51. Chico, to his mom
53. Photog. concern
55. Skater Babilonia
56. NBA official
58. Luau dance
60. Book before Job
64. Got down
66. "The Sound of Music" director
68. Developer's purchase

69. Role for Sally Field
70. "Casablanca" character
71. Guffawer's sound
72. In one's right mind
73. Open — shoes

11. "Portnoy's Complaint" author
12. Milky stone
15. Little tantrums
18. Toady's responses
22. Wave toppers
26. 1983 Best Musical Tony-winner
27. Cinematographer's concerns
28. Raptor's pad
29. "The Birth of a Nation" director
30. Personal nature
32. Baseball boot
33. Excited, with "up"
36. Cpl., e.g.
37. Store drawer
40. Longings
42. 1939's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" director
45. Genesis son
47. Proceed without effort
50. Curdles, as cream
52. Ignoramus
54. Gimmicks
56. Hasty
57. Director Kazan
59. Statesman Eban
61. Big Island seaport
62. Actual being: Lat.
63. Scrutinized
65. British breakfast beverage
67. "Ich bin — Berliner"

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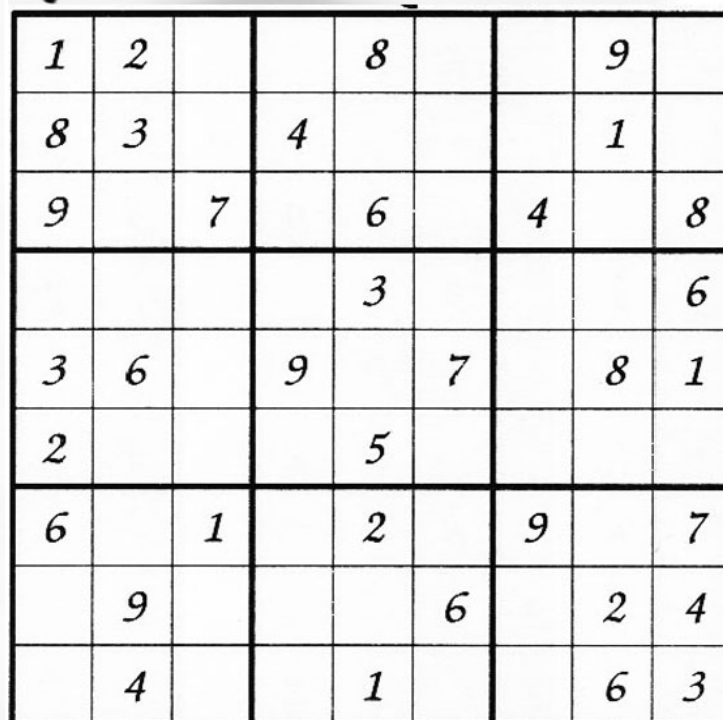
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	9	8	6	1	5	2	7	4
7	2	1	9	4	8	5	6	3
2	5	6	7	2	5	1	8	9
6	7	5	1	9	8	4	2	3
1	8	2	4	7	6	5	9	3
9	4	5	8	5	2	6	1	7
8	5	7	2	9	1	4	5	6
2	1	4	5	6	7	9	8	3
5	6	9	5	8	4	7	2	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





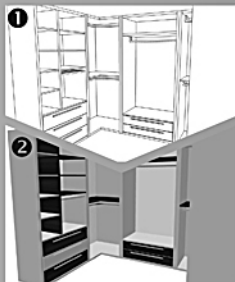
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## Finance

# Switzerland wants to ease banking secrecy

GENEVA (AFP) - Switzerland is considering new legislation to ease banking secrecy in a bid to fight money laundering, the police and justice department said yesterday.

The Federal Council wants to amend the law on money laundering to allow authorities to send "specific financial information such as bank account numbers, information on transactions and capital or account balances," to foreign partners, the department said in a statement.

This will help in "the fight against money laundering

and the financing of terrorism" and "strengthen the integrity of Switzerland as a financial centre," it said.

The draft law aims to extend the powers of the Money Laundering Reporting Office of Switzerland (MROS) so it can demand information from third-party intermediaries after a suspicious transaction has been carried out.

Bern yesterday approved the draft amendment bill to be submitted for consultation by April 20 this year. In the interim period, cantons and political parties are to establish their positions on the subject.

The MROS has not been able to provide foreign partners with financial information such as bank account numbers because such information is covered by provisions on "banking secrecy or official secrecy," the Swiss department said.

This has had a negative impact on Switzerland, officials said, since many countries apply the principle of reciprocity and thus do not provide any financial infor-

mation to the MROS.

In addition, since July 2011, the Egmont Group, representing 127 financial intelligence units, has threatened to suspend Switzerland because it is the only member that does not share information with partner authorities.

"Such a suspension could damage the reputation of Switzerland as a financial centre," say Swiss authorities who want to "dismantle the obstacle of secrecy in executing administrative assistance."

## Cameron: Britain not ready to boost IMF to help euro

LONDON (AFP) - Britain is ready to boost its contribution to the International Monetary Fund to help countries in trouble, not to support a specific currency, Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday.

"We believe the IMF has always lent to countries, not currencies," Cameron commented after the IMF said it would seek up to \$500 billion in new financial firepower as the European debt crisis threatens the

global economy.

"We would only act with others, not just as part of a eurozone measure," said Cameron, reaffirming a position Britain took at a G20 summit in November.

"But above all we want to see the eurozone standing behind its own currency," he added.

Britain currently provides 4.5 percent of the IMF's funds.

## IMF aims to raise \$500 bn as euro crisis rages

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund said yesterday it would seek up to \$500 billion in new financial firepower as the European public debt crisis increasingly threatens the global economy.

With several European countries veering on recession and Greece on the brink of default, the IMF said it lacks the resources to be the planet's lender of last resort.

"Based on staff's estimate of global potential financing needs of about \$1 trillion in the coming years, the Fund would aim to raise up to \$500 billion in additional lending resources," it said in a statement.

The IMF said the \$500 billion includes the recent European commitment to add about \$200 billion to its resources.

"At this preliminary stage, we are exploring options on funding and will have no further comment until the necessary consultations with the Fund's membership have been completed," the 187-nation institution said.

The IMF statement came after an IMF executive board meeting Tuesday to discuss the adequacy of its resources -- currently about \$385 billion in

available funds.

IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said that the discussion was held at the request of the membership and the "general support" of the Group of 20 major economies.

Lagarde said the board had recognized the importance of making sure the Fund had enough resources "to help defuse the current global economic weaknesses and regional challenges."

"The biggest challenge is to respond to the crisis in an adequate manner and many executive directors stressed the necessity and urgency of collective efforts to contain the debt crisis in the euro area and protect economies around the world from spillovers," she said in a statement.

Prodded last year by the Group of 20 major economies to increase the money it has for intervening in financial crises, the IMF has been exploring informally the issue for months.

Eurozone leaders pledged in December to provide the IMF with bilateral loans worth 150 billion euros (\$192 billion).

The United States, the Fund's biggest stakeholder, has adamantly refused to contribute more funds.



Current as of: 01/18/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.74	1.76	1.78
Britain	GBP	2.67	2.72	2.78
Switzerland	CHF	188.88	189.60	190.40
Netherlands	EUR	226.46	228.53	230.82
Sweden	SEK	24.91	25.63	26.43
Denmark	DKK	29.77	30.49	31.29
Norway	NOK	28.69	29.41	30.21
Japan	JPY	229.84	231.94	234.27

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## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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2. "Picks of the day and week" will appear in THE MORNING NEWS
3. Contest begins today and deadline for submissions of photos is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM; drawing for raffle will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 22.
4. Judging is final; winners will be announced in Friday's paper, February 24.
5. Each photo submission earns a raffle ticket towards the Ash Wednesday drawing

**Prizes for the Carnival photo Contest:**

**Grand Prize:** 3 days/2 nights stay at Boardwalk Apartments  
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**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Complete Play package at Cool Casino

Prize winners will receive additional raffle tickets towards final drawing, and a special surprise for the grand prize winning photo.

No purchase necessary to participate; subscription to THE MORNING NEWS and submission of photos are free; photos will only be used for Carnival promotion and owners retain all rights.

**Win airfare to Bonaire and other great prizes - no purchase necessary! Send us your Carnival pix and see them published**



## TOB Carnival Group presents "Wings of Life"



Wednesday night TOB Carnival Group presented to the public its costumes for Carnival 2012. Theme for the group is "Wings of Life." The event took place in Drop 'n Nuts in Dakota. Minister of Tourism and TOB Carnival Group Leader, Otmar Oduber, was also present for the presentation. Entertainment was by "Biggie Boy" who performed, among others, his latest hit 'Nosa asi voce me mata.' Needless to say it was a very fun event, with everyone dancing and jumping. Photos are of three different versions of the costume.

## 'It's silent?': Britons demand refunds for 'The Artist'

LONDON (AFP) - Cinemagoers in the British city of Liverpool demanded refunds on tickets for Oscar favourite "The Artist" because they did not realise it is a silent movie, a cinema chain said.

The French-directed picture won three Golden Globes and the most nominations for Britain's BAFTAs this week, and is widely tipped for glory at next month's Oscars.

But several cinemagoers in Liverpool, a port city in north-west England, were apparently not so impressed and stormed out in objection to the lack of dialogue and the smaller-than-usual screen.

The spokeswoman said the complaints were limited to one cinema.

Nicola Shearer, 25, told the Daily Telegraph newspaper that box office staff at the cinema had double-checked that she knew it was silent.

"Of course I knew it was and I asked the usher why she wanted to know," Shearer told the paper on Tuesday.

"She then told me some people complained and asked for refunds because there is no sound and the screen is smaller. I thought it was really funny and laughed."

**Carnaval Schedule**

**January - Wk 3**

**Friday Jan. 20:** \* Jump Up - Oranjestad - 7:30 p.m.  
**Saturday Jan. 21:** \* Children & Youth Calypso & Road-march Contest - Joe Laveist - 7 p.m.  
**Sunday Jan. 22:** \* Balloon Parade - San Nicolas - 1 p.m.  
 \* Inscription Calypso & Roadmarch Contest - Bonaire Club - 5 p.m.



## Are we having fun yet? All ages will enjoy Flowrider and Fun City

How many parents chasing after their little ones while on vacation have had that phrase cross their minds? "Are WE having fun yet?" Watching out for the kids on vacation and keeping them entertained can make many a parent wonder if the trip was worth it, but now there is an all encompassing answer at Palm Beach Plaza Shopping Mall that will pro-

tainment.

Another section of the third floor of the shopping center run by Fun City has baby rides, video games and air hockey scaled to pint-sized players and a rock climbing wall and other fun for teenagers.



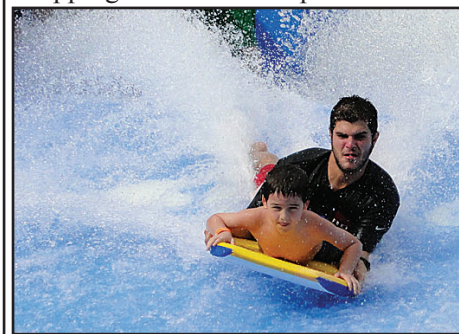
**Learning activities to stimulate young minds**

For a fee of \$20 per hour, parents can rest assured their youngsters are well cared for and having a great time in a secure, controlled environment. Parents and

children are photographed at check in, and children are not released to anyone but their parents. Both receive ID tags with bar codes which must match up when coming to retrieve your children and adults also are provided a beeper so they may be summoned at anytime, if necessary. Couples are then free to relax and enjoy



**Award winning Comfyland environment**



**Share the fun on Flowrider**

vide hours of exciting entertainment for all ages and peace of mind for anxious parents.

The Flowrider/ Fun City complex in Palm Beach takes up the area of a full size resort and offers great activities at reasonable prices for every member of the family. Everyone will love spending time in the only Flowrider surfing environment in the Caribbean,

children are photographed at check in, and children are not released to anyone but their parents. Both receive ID tags with bar codes which must match up when coming to retrieve your children and adults also are provided a beeper so they may be summoned at anytime, if necessary. Couples are then free to relax and enjoy

member at a reasonable price.

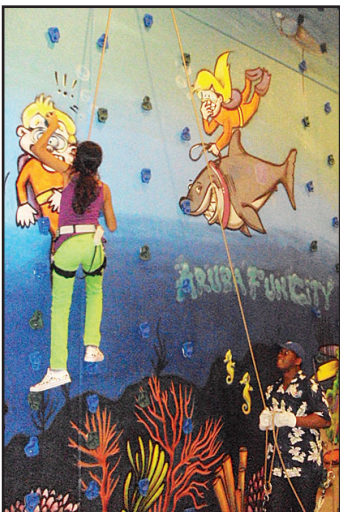
All the family will find Flowrider and Fun City adding an exciting new aspect to their Aruba vacation



Palm Beach's many grown-up attractions, such as shopping and fine dining, with peace of mind.

Fun City provides two great environments for the family to share some quality time, Laser Tag and Desperado, a "5-

Dimensional" interactive entertainment experience that will delight the young and the young at heart; an absolute bargain at only \$5 for either adventure. If you want to organize a unique and thrilling



and now you have an answer when you teenagers ask "Are we having fun yet?"



while parents can leave their youngest at Fun City under careful security and supervision to relax and enjoy a bit of shopping, or a delightful dinner for just the two of them.

Fun City offers 3 age-appropriate environments for youngsters from 1 year to 12, with trained group leaders seeing to all the children's needs and providing educational fun for the little ones. There is the Baby Gym for ages 3 or 4 and Comfyland for kids up to 10, which was named "Best Playground of 2010" by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions; both provide great ways for energetic young bodies to get a workout while also being guided through learning enter-

## Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion



When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal," discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice, served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on

which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, across from Aruba's Numismatic Museum, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary; they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 588-4494 for reservations.



## SPORTS

## Cycling: Former world champ Freire vows to retire



ADELAIDE (AFP) - Former world champion Oscar Freire said there will be no going back on his decision to end his illustrious career at the end of the season.

Spanish sprint specialist Freire is one of only a handful of riders to have won the world road race title three times.

And, with this year's world championships being held on a challenging hilly course in the Netherlands, the Spaniard has set his sights on success elsewhere.

In his 13th and final season, Freire is hoping to keep a younger, hungrier bunch of sprint rivals at bay in his favourite classic the Milan-

SanRemo, before resuming his love affair with the Tour de France.

Just a week after the July showpiece Freire -- who helped Samuel Sanchez capture Olympic road race gold in Beijing four years ago -- hopes to be among the medal contenders at the sprinters' course at the London Games.

It's all a far cry from last year when Freire considered retirement for the umpteenth time, after Rabobank left him off their Tour de France squad and illness during the Tour of Spain dampened his late season ambitions.

Lured by Russian team Katusha for one final campaign in the pro peloton, a revived Freire hopes to make his farewell year one to remember.

"Last year wasn't particularly lucky for me. I didn't do the Tour de France and also I was sick in the Vuelta (Tour of Spain)," Freire told AFP.

"My physical condition was okay, but I just didn't get opportunities to show what I could do.

"This is my final year. I hope to be a little bit better, and a bit more lucky."

Despite his loyalty to Rabobank over seven successful years with the Dutch

team, Freire was ditched from their Tour de France squad as they focused on Robert Gesink's ultimately disastrous yellow jersey campaign.

Freire is now eyeing a return to the world's biggest race in July, where he will come up against a formidable field, including 20-time stage winner Mark Cavendish.

Before then, Milan-SanRemo -- the first major classic of the season and a race he has won three times -- is Freire's main objective in late March.

"Milan-SanRemo is the priority, but I also hope to do well at Tirreno-Adriatico before then and I'll also be doing (Italian race) Eroica for the first time."

Having suffered throughout his career from injury and sinus problems which required surgery, Freire says that this year there will be no reversal of his decision to retire.

"Every year it's getting more difficult. But two years ago, for example, I had a really good season, I won Milan-SanRemo and Paris-Tours -- the most important sprints of the year.

"I hope to have similar success this year. After that, it will be over. I don't know whether I will stay in cycling but let's say I will have plenty of time to consider my options."

## Golf: No Hope but plenty of change for PGA event -

LA QUINTA (AFP) - A new name, a shorter tournament and fewer courses give this week's US PGA Humana Challenge something of a new feel compared to the event's prior history as the Bob Hope Classic.

What had been a 90-hole tournament since its inception in 1960 has been reduced to 72 holes and will be played over only three courses rather than four when the \$5.6 million tournament tees off on Thursday.

"I think everybody's going to like the new format even better," American veteran Matt Kuchar said. "It has been great to see the tour make these tweaks."

Pros will play with different amateur partners for each of the first three rounds rather than a group of amateurs each day before a pros-only final round in quest of the \$1 million top prize.

The event, named for the

late US comedian Bob Hope for the past 47 years, now has an eight-year link with the foundation of former US President Bill Clinton.

Clinton's name on the event as the format changes have boosted the quality of the field a bit. Australian legend Greg Norman will make a rare start.

Four-time major champion Phil Mickelson will open his 2012 season at La Quinta. So will another US star, eighth-ranked Dustin Johnson.

"I think that what kept people from coming maybe in the past was the five days, the 12 different amateurs -- it's not for everybody, for sure," Kuchar said. "I think the new format is much more appealing to everybody."

It definitely is for Johnson Wagner, an American coming off a victory last week in Hawaii in the first full-field event of the 2012 US PGA season. He's happy to have one more day to rest and one less


course to learn.

The event will be played over the Nicklaus and Palmer courses at the PGA West resort, which ranked as two of the three least difficult courses on the PGA Tour last year, as well as La Quinta Country Club. All are par-72 layouts.

David Duval fired a 59 on the Palmer course 13 years ago with four 61s being recorded in 2009 and there have been 14 62s in the past four years.

Mickelson, a winner of the event in 2002 and 2004, makes his first start since the Singapore Open last November. The US left-hander ends a four-year absence from the tournament.

Wagner, who has three career PGA titles, has seen his dream of qualifying for the US Ryder Cup team boosted after a victory that also grabbed him a place in the field for the Masters next April.



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## NBA: Legend Abdul-Jabbar named US cultural ambassador

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NBA all-time scoring leader Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, a legendary retired center, was named a global cultural ambassador on Wednesday by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Abdul-Jabbar, born Lew Alcindor before changing his name after leading Milwaukee to the 1971 NBA title, scored 38,387 points in 1,560 games over a 20-year NBA career and was named the NBA Most Valuable Player in 1971 and 1985.

In a week-long trip to Brazil that starts on Sunday, Abdul-Jabbar will begin his new role to meet with young people and promote diplomacy and opportunities for

greater cultural understanding between nations.

"I'm excited and honored," Abdul-Jabbar said. "I really appreciate the opportunity. I remember when Louis Armstrong first did it back for President (John) Kennedy, one of my heroes, so it's nice to be following in his footsteps."

Abdul-Jabbar will participate in youth basketball clinics in Rio de Janeiro, host city of the 2016 Olympics, and Salvador, and stress education, social and racial tolerance, cultural understanding and sports as a means of empowerment.

Since retiring from the NBA in 1989, Abdul-Jabbar has focused on African-American history and socio-economic justice.

"We're thrilled that you have agreed to do this," Clinton said. "I'm just very grateful to you for taking the time."


## Tennis: Nalbandian rant ... continued from page 16

Juan Martin del Potro set up a third-round match with Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun, Ukrainian hotshot Alexandr Dolgoplov also went through and Bernard Tomic delighted home fans by beating American Sam Querrey in four sets.

In the women's draw, Cljsters brushed past France's Stephanie Foretz Gacon 6-0, 6-1, while French Open winner Li dispatched Australian wildcard Olivia Rogowska 6-2, 6-2 to stay on track for a fourth-round meeting with the Belgian.

But Italy's Francesca Schiavone followed US Open champion Samantha Stosur out of the tournament when she was shocked by 80th-ranked compatriot Romina Oprandi, who won 6-4, 6-3.

"I think it was a really bad match for me," Schiavone said. "I couldn't play like I was trying to play."



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## Boxing: I'm innocent of any wrongdoing in Khan fight: Ameen

LONDON (AFP) - Mustafa Ameen whose mysterious behaviour ringside at the Amir Khan and Lamont Peterson WBA and IBF light welter-weight world title bout provoked a furore from the Khan camp told the BBC on Wednesday he had not been trying to influence the outcome.

Instead Ameen - who is credentialled by the IBF - told them he was helping the supervisor Michael Welsh correct a mathematical error on his scorecard which he had



Mustafa Ameen, right, pictured with the WBA supervisor, Michael Welsh, during Amir Khan's controversial bout against Lamont Peterson.

noticed while sitting behind him at the December 10 fight in Washington DC.

He insisted that he was not doing anything sinister as claimed by the Khan camp and added he was looking for an apology from the British boxer's camp.

While Khan lost the fight and his titles his complaints afterwards struck a chord with the WBA who ordered a rematch based on what they saw as bad refereeing decisions.

Referee Joe Cooper deducted points from Khan in the seventh and 12th rounds for pushing, a rare call, and did not credit Khan with what should have been a knock-down in the first round, ac-

cording to the WBA.

The sanctioning body said Cooper's moves impacted the outcome of the fight. Had Khan not been docked the point in the final round, judges scores would have made the fight a draw and Khan would have kept his titles.

The WBA also pointed to an unauthorized person, Ameen, handling the official scoring slips used by judges during the bout then posing with Peterson for pictures after the fight.

However, Ameen told the BBC that he was innocent of any wrongdoing and claims he only pointed out mistakes made by Michael Welsh, who had said he was unwell.

"I noticed one error and a subsequent error. I assisted him in correcting it without touching anything," he said.

Ameen said that his appearing alongside Peterson post fight was simply a case of him helping out a fellow IBF official, 85-year-old Paul Artst, with the championship belt and had it been Khan who won he would have done the same.

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## Tennis: Nalbandian rant stirs up Australian Open



**David Nalbandian of Argentina reacts during his men's singles match against John Isner of the US.**

MELBOURNE (AFP) - A furious rant by David Nalbandian stirred up the Australian Open Wednesday, as Rafael Nadal made a timely return to form and Roger Federer reached the third round without picking up his racquet.

Women's champion Kim Clijsters raced through in just 47 minutes to stay on track for a clash with China's Li Na, and top seed Caroline

Wozniacki survived a second-set fightback by former junior doubles partner Anna Tatishvili.

Nadal, who has grumbled about injuries and has appeared jaded in recent months, was smiling again after his 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 defeat of Tommy Haas, which put him into the third round without dropping a set.

The Spaniard, moving

freely despite a heavily bandaged right knee, was broken in the first and third sets but he always looked in control against the injury-hit German, who has reached the semi-finals on three occasions.

"He's a fantastic player and he's had a lot of injuries over the last couple of years and it's great to see him back," said Nadal, who suffered a dramatic flare-up in his long-troubled knee on the eve of the tournament.

"It's much better and I'm happy with how the knee is improving and I played today without any problems," added the 10-time grand slam winner, who plays Lukas Lacko in the next round.

Federer, seeking his first grand slam win in two years, received a boost when Germany's Andreas Beck withdrew from their match with a back problem, giving the Swiss free passage to the third round.

The rest will be welcome for Federer, 30, who was forced out of this month's Qatar Open with back spasms and will break Jimmy Connors's record of 233

grand slam wins if he reaches the final. He will next face Ivo Karlovic.

But the major talking point was an on-court bust-up involving the combative Nalbandian, who was incensed when a chair umpire refused to allow a critical video challenge near the end of his 4hr 41min marathon loss to John Isner.

Nalbandian said the official, Kader Nouni of France, was not capable of umpiring men's grand slam matches after making the contentious call late in the gripping five-setter, which ended 4-6, 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5), 10-8.

Holding a break point at

8-8 in the deciding set, Nalbandian, a former top-10 player and the 2002 Wimbledon runner-up, asked for a Hawk-Eye video review when umpire Nouni overruled a fault call on Isner's serve.

But Nouni told him he was "too late" to request the challenge, according to Nalbandian, who argued for several minutes and called the match supervisor on court.

"I mean, it's ridiculous playing this kind of tournament with this kind of umpires. What is this? Why did the ATP do this?" Nalbandian fumed later.

*continues on page 15*

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